GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2533
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
CONSTRUCTION OF CHEAP HOUSES
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any agreement with the African nations for increasing cooperation for the construction of cheap houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of African nations participating in the said agreement; and

(d) the number of such houses to be constructed under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a)to(d): Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 20th June, 2000 with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to strengthen technical cooperation between India and African countries in the area of manufacturing building materials for cost effective housing in Africa. The MoU, inter alia provides for transfer of manufacturing technologies for cost-effective building materials, help to small and medium entrepreneurs engaged in production of building materials, capacity building of the institutions involved in promoting technology transfer, establishing technology support centres and developing industrial partnerships between India and African countries. The activities mentioned in the MOU will be undertaken in a phased manner and in the first phase of the co-operation programme, countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi will be covered.

The MOU does not directly relate to construction of houses, as yet. However, the Government of India will provide technological support and professional training while co-operating with the participating African countries in their national programmes of housing particularly for the low income segment of population.